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**LEADERS OF OXYCONTIN DISTRIBUTION RING INDICTED FOR  
ENGAGING IN A CONTINUING CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE**

**Baltimore, Maryland** - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that a federal grand jury has indicted Oliver Clifton Hudson, age 49, and Gregory Wayne Banks, age 53 both of Baltimore, Maryland, as co-leaders of a drug ring that obtained large quantities of the pain reliever called Oxycontin by defrauding government and private health insurance programs. The indictment charges Hudson and Banks with engaging in a “continuing criminal enterprise”(CCE) by organizing and supervising members of a five-year conspiracy that repeatedly committed violations of the federal narcotics statutes.

The indictment alleges that from about May 1999 to December 15, 2004, Hudson and Banks oversaw a scheme that created fraudulent prescriptions for Oxycontin, a controlled substance, which they and other members of the enterprise presented to different pharmacies located in six counties in the Baltimore metropolitan area. The alleged scheme involved opening storefronts and installing phone lines for fictitious medical clinics that were listed on prescriptions they printed, along with the names and corresponding DEA registration numbers of legitimate and unwitting medical practitioners. When “runners” for the group presented the fraudulent prescriptions at a pharmacy,

sometimes at multiple pharmacies in a single day, Hudson or Banks would answer telephone calls to the “clinic” from pharmacists who might call to verify the authenticity of a particular prescription. Pretending to be employees of the “clinic,” Hudson or Banks would assure the pharmacists of the accuracy of the information contained on the fake prescriptions. Once filled, the runners would deliver the Oxycontin pills to Hudson or Banks who would then sell them to other people who, in turn, would resell them to street dealers. The indictment alleges that Banks, Hudson and others obtained more than 38,000 Oxycontin pills using this scheme.

The indictment further alleges that Hudson and Banks coordinated the payment for the drugs by providing the runners with government or private health insurance cards. Usually, Hudson and Banks obtained the insurance cards by paying a health care recipient “rent” for the use of his or her card for a period of time. By doing so, the pharmacies would charge a health insurance program for the cost of the Oxycontin, which could be more than \$800 for a single prescription of 180 tablets, and Banks and Hudson would only have to pay the co-payment.

The CCE charge carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 20 years in prison, and a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a \$2,000,000 fine.

The 27 count indictment charges eight other Baltimore residents with participating in the conspiracy to distribute oxycodone and to commit health care fraud: Rebecca Hudson, age 41, Andrew Brian Daye, age 37, Alvin Ray Henry, age 40, Jacqueline Anice Anderson, age 52, Danny Edward Bryant, age 54, Vanessa Denese Ellison, age 48, Nichelle Jacquetta Keith, age 33, and Richard Earl Williams, age 63.

The defendants were arrested this morning and initial appearances are scheduled at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. today before a magistrate judge in federal court. The maximum penalty for

conspiracy to distribute Oxycontin is life imprisonment and a \$2,000,000 fine. The maximum penalty for defrauding a health care program is ten years of imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Drug Enforcement Administration Diversion Unit; the Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigations; United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General; the Baltimore County Police Department; Baltimore City Police Department; the Howard County Police Department; the Montgomery County Police Department, Special Investigations Pharmaceutical Unit; the Anne Arundel County Police Department; the United States Postal Inspection Service; and the United States Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Martin Clarke and David Copperthite.